

Commonwealth Council on Aging 2007 Best Practices Award Program

This Best Practices Award program is initiated by the Governor's Commonwealth Council on Aging, a Council composed of 19 citizens from all walks of life who are appointed by the Governor and legislators to represent all geographic areas of Virginia. The Council helps state government meet the needs of older Virginians in the most efficient and effective manner.

Purpose of the Award: The Commonwealth Council on Aging (the Council) wishes to recognize and encourage model aging programs throughout the Commonwealth. These programs may be sponsored by local governments, municipalities, community organizations, aging services providers, universities, faith organizations, and public private partnerships. Programs will be judged for their innovation, cost-effectiveness, ease of replication, and their impact on the quality of life of older Virginians, their families, and their caregivers. The Council will disseminate information on these programs throughout the Commonwealth.

The award categories are designed to include a broad and diverse range of creative community programs. The categories for the 2007 award are:

- Community Partnerships,
- Education,
- Ethnic Diversity,
- Grassroots Advocacy,
- Healthy Aging (Physical/Mental/Nutrition/Wellness/or Prevention),
- Housing,
- Long-Term Care,
- Senior Safety,
- Seniors as Volunteers, and
- Transportation.

Eligibility: To be eligible for nomination, each program must meet the following requirements:

1. Be targeted to persons age 55 and/or older, their families, and/or their caregivers;
2. Be in active operation at the time of the award and have been in continuous operation for the 12 months preceding June 1, 2006;
3. Be able to be replicated; and
4. Be able to share general information with the Council about clients served and the costs associated with the operation of the program.

Previous Best Practices Award winners will not be considered for the 2007 Award Program.

2007 Best Practices Award Instructions

Criteria: Programs will be judged based upon the following criteria:

- 1) **Community need and community impact:** How important is the program to the community's overall welfare? What impact did the program have on the quality of life for community residents?
- 2) **Innovation:** In what way is this program unique?
- 3) **Outcomes generated by the program:** What are the results? Are the results measurable? What has the program accomplished?
- 4) **Cost effectiveness of the program:** What is the cost-effectiveness of this program? How has this cost-effectiveness been evaluated, demonstrated, and documented?
- 5) **Can it be replicated?** How can this program be replicated in other communities? Is there a plan or outline that could be shared for replication?
- 6) **Obstacles encountered?** If obstacles were encountered, how did you overcome them?
- 7) **Lessons learned:** What did you learn about doing this project that would be helpful to others?

Procedures: All nominations must be made on the official nomination form that is included in this package (see 2007 Instructions). Forms may also be downloaded by going to the Department for the Aging's website and clicking on "new." The website is www.vda.virginia.gov.

Individuals and organizations may nominate more than one program (but please use a separate nomination form for each program). The nominating individual or organization may decide in which of the categories to place their nomination. Programs may be nominated in more than one category, but may only win in one category. In consultation with the nominator, the Commonwealth Council on Aging may change the category in which a program is nominated.

Deadline for Submission: The nomination form for 2007 (see 2007 Instructions) must be received by the Virginia Department for the Aging by **5 PM on Friday, April 20, 2007**. Nominations may be emailed as an attachment to Bill Peterson at bill.peterson@vda.virginia.gov. Nominations may also be mailed or hand delivered to the Department for the Aging, 1610 Forest Avenue, Suite 100, Richmond, Virginia 23229.

2007 Best Practices Award Instructions

Note: Emailed nominations should include “Best Practices Award” in the subject line. Also, the email message should include the name of the contact person and their telephone number.

For More Information: Please contact Gwen Mullen at 703-548-9899 if you have any questions.

Awards Presentation: Plans for an awards presentation and recognition ceremony will be included in the notification letters. The Council will use the brief summary requested in the nomination form to disseminate information on the winning programs through various mediums throughout the Commonwealth,

Applicants will be notified of Award winners in late May, 2007.